

## **Mike Piccardo - Volunteer of the Year Nomination**

Mike Piccardo has been involved in swimming for about 27 years, since around 1990, when his children started the sport and is one of those rare people who continues long after they have left home. He has been an active volunteer in Zone 1 South and Pacific for so many years at so many different jobs that I think it is time to recognize him for all that he has done.

Like so many officials, Mike started out as a timer and then 25 years ago became a Stroke & Turn Official. He moved on to starter, deck ref., admin ref., and meet ref. and volunteers frequently to work Z1S and Pacific meets. He also works college meets, high school meets, and League meets. As our Zone went through difficulties developing experienced officials, Mike's name would be down as meet ref. for almost all of our meets. He is the most experienced official in our zone and mentor to all, outlasting all his Z1S peers.

Mike was on the SLST Club's Board and represented them at Z1S Board meetings. Before long, around 2006 he was asked to be the Z1S Chair and served 2 one-year terms. After terming out he was an active member at large for Z1S. Around 2012, the Z1S Board again asked that Mike be its Chair and he served 2 two-year terms. Mike volunteers for so many of the Z1S committees and sits on one now. While Z1S Chair, Mike sat on the Pacific Governance and Executive committees. After terming out again as Chair, Mike was asked to be the Z1S Treasurer and now sits on the Pacific Investment and Finance Committees.

Mike has been attending Pacific Board meetings for a long time, back to when it used to meet in San Leandro. He has been carpooling with George Cleveland since then, partly to make sure George arrived safely at the meetings.

Mike has been a co-coordinator of Z1S for the Zone All Stars meets for as long as I can remember. The last two years he has had to do it on his own, and stepped up to the challenge without complaints.

Mike requested to put his name on the ballot for a Pacific At Large position so that he can continue to be active on the Pacific Board and plans to keep on attending meetings.

I think it is time to recognize one of our people who just keeps on volunteering and putting in long hours supporting so many aspects of swimming, and plans to do so in the future.